



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/651,918	08/29/2003	Muthya K. Girish	APLIP281/P3101	1074
22434	7590	03/08/2007	EXAMINER	
BEYER WEAVER LLP			TERMANINI, SAMIR	
P.O. BOX 70250			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250			2178	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/08/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/651,918	GIRISH ET AL.
	Examiner Samir Termanini	Art Unit 2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/21/05, 1/25/05, and 1/16/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

BACKGROUND

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: Application filed on 8/29/2003.
2. Claims 1–55 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 12, 21, 32, 44, and 49 are in independent form.
3. The information disclosure statement's (IDS's) filed on 12/21/05, 1/25/05, and 1/16/04 have been acknowledged and considered by the examiner. The Initial copy of form's PTO-1449 are included in this office action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1–55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Alexander et al. (2002/0044201).

As to claim 1, Alexander et al. teach, an electronic device ("...video camera 112...," para. [0022]), comprising: a processor for executing an operating system program and a media content presentation program ("...software routines ...," para. [0056]); a media content pickup device operatively connected to said processor ("...such as processor 702 ...," para. [0056]), said media content pickup device captures media content input ("...video content ...," para. [0034]), and said media content pickup device focuses the media content input on a user-specified region of interest ("...test region...," para. [0021]); and a media output path to receive and carries the focused media content ("...and focal length ...," para. [0021]).

As to claim 2, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 1 , wherein the user-specified region of interested is specified by a user through interaction with a graphical user interface ("...camera drive interface ...," para. [0029]).

As to claim 3, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 2 , wherein the graphical user interface is provided by a media content presentation program that is executed by said processor ("...camera drive interface 210 communicatively coupled as depicted....," para. [0029]).

As to claim 4, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 2 , wherein said media output path carries the focused media content to be provided to a media output device ("...video conference system control unit 200 ...," para. [0029]), the media output device being part of said electronic device or separate from said electronic device ("...those skilled in the art will appreciate that any or all of image analysis

Art Unit: 2178

circuit 106, cursor detect circuit 208 and camera drive interface 210 may well be incorporated into a common device...," para. [0029]).

As to claim 5, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 4 , wherein said media output device is a monitor , wherein the graphical user interface is displayed on said monitor ("...video display unit...," para. [0034]), and wherein the graphical user interface includes at least a media content display window ("...video conference window ...," para. [0035]).

As to claim 6, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 5 , wherein the user-specified region of interested is specified by the user with reference to the media content display window ("...receives input from the user input device, e.g., user input device 116, in the form of absolute x,y coordinates which cursor detect circuit 208 uses to ascertain the position of the cursor on the video display unit...," para. [0033]).

As to claim 7, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 4 , wherein said media output device is a monitor ("...video output to be displayed by the video display unit...," para. [0034]).

As to claim 8, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 4 , wherein said media output device is at least one speaker ("...audio input device, speakers ...," para. [0027]).

Art Unit: 2178

As to claim 9, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 1 , wherein the media content input is at least one of audio content or video content ("...audio output ...," para. [0027]).

As to claim 10, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 1 , wherein said media content pickup device is at least one of a camera and a plurality of microphones ("...e.g., a microphone..." para. [0026]).

As to claim 11, Alexander et al. teach, An electronic device as recited in claim 1 , wherein said electronic device is one of a mobile telephone , a personal computer ("...computer system..." para. [0069]), a personal digital assistant , and a handheld computer .

As to claim 12, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system , comprising: a processor for executing a video application program ("...software routines ...," para. [0056]); a camera operatively connected to said processor ("...video camera ...," para. [0057]), said camera captures video input in accordance with its field of view , and said camera focuses the video input on a determined region of the field of view ("...field of focus ...," para. [0072]), the determined region being determined in accordance with a user input ("...input...," para. [0059]); and a data output means operatively connected to said processor ("...Pentium.RTM. processor...," para. [0053]), said data output means operates to provide the focused video input for display ("...video interface board 730 is used to receive broadcast communications from any of a wide range of conventional wireline and wireless broadcast media such as RF broadcasts, satellite broadcasts, cable broadcasts, etc. ...," para. [0053]).

As to claim 13, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said processor receives a user input that indicates the determined region of the field of view ("... with the user of the local video conferencing station that the image within test region 511 encompasses the desired object, microcontroller 202 calculates the information necessary to adjust the field of focus ...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 14, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 13, wherein the user input is with respect to a window displayed on said display ("...local user input device (e.g., user input device 116) that the user of local video conferencing station 102 has selected an object within the video conference window to feature, step 302...," para. [0039]).

As to claim 15, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 14, wherein the user input is a user selection of a region of the window ("...within video conference window 518 ...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 16, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer further comprises: at least one microphone for sound pickup ("...microphone/speaker 510...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 17, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 16, wherein the video application program is an audio-video application ("...a conference manager application 500, having menu bar 530 and video conference window 518, cursor control points 502 and cursor 504...," para. [0049]), and wherein said processor

Art Unit: 2178

receives the sound pickup from said at least one microphone and supplies audio output to a speaker ("...speaker 510...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 18, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein the speaker is coupled to and associated with said computer ("...which may be coupled to system 700 (e.g., stereo speakers, etc.)...," para. [0053]).

As to claim 19, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein said computer further comprises: a plurality of microphones for sound pickup ("...number of microphones used in the system...," para. [0007]), said microphones having a known positional relationship to one another ("...positioning information ...," para. [0058]), wherein said microphones are integral with said camera ("...containing microphone/speaker 510...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 20, Alexander et al. teach, a computer system as recited in claim 19, wherein said processor receives audio input from each of said microphones and processes the audio input to emphasize audio sound from the determined region that has been determined in accordance with the user input ("...distributed microphones to locate a speaking conference participant within a room...," para. [0007]), wherein said processor receives a user input that indicates the determined region of the field of view ("... with the user of the local video conferencing station that the image within test region 511 encompasses the desired object, microcontroller 202 calculates the information necessary to adjust the field of focus ...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 21, Alexander et al. teach, a method for altering a focus location for a camera coupled to a computing apparatus ("...computer systems ...," para. [0053]), said method comprising: receiving video input from the camera ("...camera...," para. [0054]); receiving an identification of a focus region ("...field of focus and the focal length ...," para. [0050]); and causing the camera to focus on the focus region ("...and to zoom in on participant 506 until it substantially fills video conference window 518...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 22, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 21 , including the further step of displaying the video input in a video viewing window of a monitor ("...within video conference window 518...," para. [0051]).

As to claim 23, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 22 , wherein the user specifies the focus region by selecting an area of the video viewing window ("...the user would manipulate cursor 514 through user input device 116 until it reaches anywhere within participant 506 ...," para. [0050]).

As to claim 27, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 26 , wherein the pointing device is a mouse ("... a pointing device ...," para. [0026]), trackball or a trackpad ("...e.g., touchpad or trackball...," para. [0026]).

As to claims 28 and 29 , Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 22 , wherein the user moves a position reference image over the video viewing window using a pointing device to an area of interest , and then selects the focus region by clicking on the area of interest .

As to claim 29, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 21 , wherein the focus region is an area of interest specified by the user ("..."single click" of the mouse button is indicative of the user's desire to return to the camera state immediately preceding the last zoom-in...," para. [0032]).

As to claim 30, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 21 , wherein said receiving of the audio input is supplied from a first computing apparatus to a second computing apparatus , and said displaying of the video input and said receiving of the focus region are performed on the second computing apparatus ("...Audio/Video conferencing services 845 provides an interface between conference subsystem layer 815 and conference manager 825...," para. [0065]).

As to claim 31, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 21 , wherein the computing apparatus is one of a mobile telephone , a personal computer ("...conventional computer system ...," para. [0069]), a personal digital assistant , and a handheld computer .

As to claim 32, Alexander et al. teach, a method for using a computing apparatus to process audio input provided by a plurality of microphones , said method comprising: receiving audio input from the plurality of microphones ("... number of microphones ...," para. [0007]); receiving an indication of a region of interest from a user with respect to a graphical user interface window being displayed on a monitor available to the user

("...test region...," para. [0021]); and a media output path to receive and carries the focused media content ("...and focal length ...," para. [0021]); and processing the audio input to focus the audio input towards the region of interest ("...distributed microphones to locate a speaking conference participant within a room...," para. [0007]).

As to claim 33, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein said method further comprises: outputting the processed audio input to at least one speaker ("...g., speaker(s)) ...," para. [0022]).

As to claim 34, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 33 , wherein said method further comprises: repeating the foregoing operations after said outputting has output the processed audio input to the at least one speaker ("...an audio input device, speakers and ...," para. [0027]).

As to claim 35, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein said processing captures audio from the region of interest while attempting to reject audio from other regions ("...forwards them to the audio output device(s) and image analysis circuit 204,...," para. [0031]).

As to claim 36, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein said processing utilizes beam forming and beam steering operations ("...steer...," para. [0006]).

As to claim 37, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein a camera couples to the computer , and wherein the camera has a housing and the

microphones are internal to the housing of the camera ("... incorporated into a common device...," para. [0029]).

As to claim 38, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein the user performs a button press to select the region of interest ("...single click" of the mouse button is indicative of the user's desire to ...," para. [0032]).

As to claim 39, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 38 , wherein the button press is with respect to a pointing device ("...wherein the user input device is a mouse, a "double click" of a mouse button is indicative of the user's desire to pan and zoom...," para. [0032]).

As to claim 40, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 39 , wherein the pointing device is a mouse ("...mouse...," para. [0032]), trackball or a trackpad ("...e.g., touchpad or trackball...," para. [0026]).

As to claim 41, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein the user moves a position reference image over the graphical user interface window using a pointing device to an area of interest , and then selects the region of interest by clicking on the area of interest ("...wherein the user input device is a mouse, a "double click" of a mouse button is indicative of the user's desire to pan and zoom...," para. [0032]).

As to claim 42, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein said receiving of the audio input is supplied from a first computing apparatus to a second computing apparatus ("...of the other video conferencing stations...," para.

[0064]), and said displaying of the graphical user interface window and said receiving of the indication of the region of interest are performed on the second computing apparatus ("... control the remote video camera via an appropriate communication channel interface selected from hardware interface layer 820. ...," para. [0065]).

As to claim 43, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein the computing apparatus is one of a mobile telephone , a personal computer , a personal digital assistant , and a handheld computer .

As to claim 43, Alexander et al. teach, a method as recited in claim 32 , wherein the computing apparatus is one of a mobile telephone , a personal computer ("...Personal computer (PC) video conferencing ...," para. [0004]), a personal digital assistant , and a handheld computer .

As to claim 44, Alexander et al. teach, further taught ("...Audio/Video conferencing services 845 provides an interface between conference subsystem layer 815 and conference manager 825...," para. [0065]).

As to claim 45, Alexander et al. teach, ("...video conference window ...," para. [0035]).

As to claim 46, Alexander et al. teach, ("...wherein the user input device is a mouse, a "double click" of a mouse button is indicative of the user's desire to pan and zoom...," para. [0032]).

As to claim 47, Alexander et al. teach, a plurality of microphones ("...e.g., a microphone...," para. [0026]).

As to claim 48, Alexander et al. teach, ("... incorporated into a common device...", para. [0029]).

As to dependent claims 49-55, these claims differ from the above recited claims only in that they are directed to products defined by processes previously address above. Accordingly, claims 49-55 are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the process claims above.

CONCLUSION

6. Although not relied upon, the following prior art is made of record because it considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Cortjens; Leo M. et al. US 5583565 A	Method for automatically adjusting the pan and tilt of a video conferencing system camera
Cortjens; Leo M. et al. US 5589878 A	Method of determining an error in a video conferencing system camera
Cortjens; Leo M. et al. US 5598209 A	Method for automatically adjusting a video conferencing system camera
Kinnunen, Jair et al. US 20010018349 A1	Location dependent services
Sahota, Ranjit et al. US 20010056460 A1	Method and system for transforming content for execution on multiple platforms

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Samir Termanini whose telephone number is (571) 270-1047. The Examiner can normally be reached from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday (excluding alternating Fridays).

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax

phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Samir Termanini
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2178



STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER